

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 219139

EXCON

E.O11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: ESTC, COCOM, UR, UK

SUBJECT: UF6 FOR TOLL -NRICHMENT TO USSR - AEL-1

REF: COCOM DOC (76) 870

1. DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN DISCUSSING SUBJECT CASE WITH UK EMBASSY. ON JULY 6 WE WERE INFORMED THAT FIRM WAS UNABLE TO REWRITE CONTRACT TO CONFINE UK PART OF TRANSACTION TO PROCESSING OF ORE INTO UF6 AND HAVE SWEDES AND AUSTRIANS DEAL DIRECTLY WITH SOVIETS ON TOLL ENRICHMENT. HOWEVER, UK COULD AGREE TO HAVE ANY TAILS REMAINING IN USSR BE NO MORE THAN 0.2 PERCENT URANIUM CONTENT.

2. WE NOW HAVE INTER-AGENCY AGREEMENT TO APPROVE UK CASE WITH THREE CONDITIONS: (1) THAT JOINT CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE BE INFORMED, (2) THAT US BE PROVIDED WITH THAT
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PART OF CONTRACT MADE BY UK FIRM WITH USSR SPECIFYING THAT

TRANSACTIONAL TAILS ASSAY WILL SHOW THAT TAILS THAT
WILL REMAIN IN USSR WILL HAVE URANIUM 235 CONTENT LIMITED
TO NO MORE THAN 0.2 PERCENT AND (3) THAT US MAKE CLEAR IN
COCOM THAT APPROVAL THIS CASE DOES NOT CONSTITUTE
PRECEDENT FOR FUTURE CASES.

3. DEPARTMENT HAS INFORMED JOINT CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE
IN ACCORDANCE WITH FIRST CONDITION.

4. USDEL SHOULD APPROACH UKDEL NOTING SECOND CONDITION
UNDER WHICH TRANSACTION IS ACCEPTABLE. IF UKDEL SEES
NO PROBLEM IN PROVIDING EXCERPT FROM CONTRACT TO US,
USDEL MAY FILE POSITION OF NO OBJECTION IN
COCOM NOTING THAT US VIEW REMAINS THAT TAILS SHOULD NOT
BE LEFT IN SOVIET UNION AND THAT US AGREEMENT IN PRESENT
CASE RESULTS FROM SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES AND IS NOT TO BE
VIEWED AS PRECEDENT FOR FUTURE CASES. IT IS STILL THE
US VIEW THAT URANIUM TAILS HAVE STRATEGIC SIGNIFICANCE
AND ALL FUTURE CASES SHOULD BE REVIEWED ON THEIR OWN
INDIVIDUAL MERIT. ROBINSON

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